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| Under the | Paperwork Re | duction Act of 1995. | no persons | s are required to respond to a collection Application Number | 1 | mation unles 11,178 | s it displa | ivs a valid OMB control number. |
| TRANSMITTAL | | | | Filing Date | 2004 | /8/30 | | |
| | FO | RM | | First Named Inventor | | -Jyh Lin | | |
| (to be used | for all correspo | ondence after initial i | filing) | Art Unit | | Official Court City | | |
| • | | | 0, | Examiner Name | | | | |
| Total Numbe | er of Pages in 1 | his Submission | 3 | Attorney Docket Number | NTCF | NTCP0014USA | | |
| | | | ENCI | LOSURES (Check all tha | t apply) | | | |
| Fee Transmittal Form Fee Attached Amendment/Reply After Final Affidavits/declaration(s) Extension of Time Request Express Abandonment Request Information Disclosure Statement | | | Drawing(s) Licensing-related Papers Petition Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Addr Terminal Disclaimer Request for Refund CD, Number of CD(s) | ress | After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Proprietary Information | | ogy Center (TC) mmunication to Board and Interferences mmunication to TC tice, Brief, Reply Brief) r Information er osure(s) (please | |
| | | SIGNA | TURE C | OF APPLICANT, ATTORN | IEY, O | R AGEN | Γ | |
| Firm or Individual name Signature Winston Hsu, Reg. No.: 41,526 Winston Hsu, Reg. No.: 41,526 | | | | | | | | |
| Date 9/14/2 AA-C | | | | | | | | |
| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | | | | | | | | |
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PTO/SB/17 (10-03)

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| FEE TRANS | SWILLAL | Application Number | 10/711,178 | | |
| for FY | 2004 | Filing Date | 2004/8/30 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | Shian-Jyh Lin | | |
| Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are | | Examiner Name | | | |
| Applicant claims small entity status | s. See 37 CFR 1.27 | Art Unit | | | |
| TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 0.00 | | Attorney Docket No. | NTCP0014USA | | |

| METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply) | FEE CALCULATION (continued) | | | |
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| Check Credit card Money Other None | 3. ADDITIONAL FEES | | | |
| Deposit Account: | Large Entity Small Entity | | | |
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| Account 50-3105 | 1051 130 2051 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | ree raid | | |
| Number Deposit Account North America Intellectual Property Corp. | 1052 50 2052 25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or | | | |
| Account Name Name | cover sheet | | | |
| The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply) | 1053 130 1053 130 Non-English specification 1812 2,520 1812 2,520 For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexaminati | on I | | |
| Charge fee(s) indicated below Credit any overpayments | 1804 920* 1804 920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to | | | |
| Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s) | Examiner action | | | |
| Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account. | 1805 1,840* 1805 1,840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | | | |
| FEE CALCULATION | 1251 110 2251 55 Extension for reply within first month | | | |
| 1. BASIC FILING FEE | 1252 420 2252 210 Extension for reply within second month | | | |
| Large Entity Small Entity | 1253 950 2253 475 Extension for reply within third month | | | |
| Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description Fee Paid Code (\$) Code (\$) | 1254 1,480 2254 740 Extension for reply within fourth month | | | |
| 1001 770 2001 385 Utility filing fee | 1255 2,010 2255 1,005 Extension for reply within fifth month | | | |
| 1002 340 2002 170 Design filing fee | 1401 330 2401 165 Notice of Appeal | ļ | | |
| 1003 530 2003 265 Plant filing fee | 1402 330 2402 165 Filing a brief in support of an appeal | | | |
| 1004 770 2004 385 Reissue filing fee | 1403 290 2403 145 Request for oral hearing | | | |
| 1005 160 2005 80 Provisional filing fee | 1451 1,510 1451 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding | · | | |
| SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 0.00 | 1452 110 2452 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable | | | |
| | 1453 1,330 2453 665 Petition to revive - unintentional | | | |
| 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE | 1301 1,330 2501 003 Office (See (Of Telasue) | <u> </u> | | |
| Extra Claims below Fee Paid Total Claims 20** = X = | 1 200 200 girilotta 111 | | | |
| Independent | 1503 640 2503 320 Plant issue fee | | | |
| Claims Multiple Dependent | 1460 130 1460 130 Petitions to the Commissioner | | | |
| l · · | 1807 50 1807 50 Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) | | | |
| Large Entity Small Entity Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description | 1806 180 1806 180 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmi | | | |
| Code (\$) Code (\$) | 8021 40 8021 40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | | | |
| 1202 18 2202 9 Claims in excess of 20 1201 86 2201 43 Independent claims in excess of 3 | 1809 770 2809 385 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a)) | | | |
| 1203 290 2203 145 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid | 1810 770 2810 385 For each additional invention to be | | | |
| 1204 86 2204 43 ** Reissue independent claims | examined (37 CFR 1.129(b)) 1801 770 2801 385 Reguest for Continued Examination (RCE | . | | |
| over original patent 1205 18 2205 9 ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 | 1801 770 2801 385 Request for Continued Examination (RCE 1802 900 1802 900 Request for expedited examination | " | | |
| and over original patent | of a design application | | | |
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| **or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above | *Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0. | 00 | | |

| SUBMITTED BY | | | (Complete | (if applicable)) |
|-------------------|-------------|--|-----------|------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Winston Hsu | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 41,526 | Telephone | 886289237350 |
| Signature | EN | ndon Way | Date | 9/14/200 |

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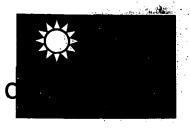


PTO/SB/02B (08-03)
Approved for use through 08/31/2003. OMB 0651-0032
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DECLARATION – Supplemental Priority Data Sheet

| Foreign applications: | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Prior Foreign Application Number(s) | Country | Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Priority Not Claimed | Certified Cop YES | y Attached? NO | | |
| 093107164 | Taiwan R.O.C. | 3/17/2004 | | V | | | |
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中華民國經濟部智慧財產局

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFRICE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF CHINA

茲證明所附文件,係本局存檔中原申請案的副本,正確無訛,其申請資料如下:

This is to certify that annexed is a true copy from the records of this office of the application as originally filed which is identified hereund

申 _ 請 日 : 西元<u>2004</u>年<u>03</u>月<u>17</u>日 Application Date

申 請 案 號: 093107164 Application No.

申 請 人 南亞科技股份有限公司 Applicant(s)

CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

局 長 Director General



發文日期: 西元 2004 年 8 月

Issue Date

發文字號: Serial No.

09320763130



發明專利說明書

(本說明書格式、順序及粗體字,請勿任意更動,※記號部分請勿填寫)

※申請案號: 93/07/64

※申請日期: 93, 3, 17. **※IPC** 分類: Holl 21/324

壹、發明名稱:(中文/英文)

一種閘極氧化層的形成方法/

METHOD FOR GROWING A GATE OXIDE LAYER ON A SILICON SURFACE WITH PRELIMINARY N₂O ANNEAL

貳、申請人:(共1人)

姓名或名稱:(中文/英文)

南亞科技股份有限公司/NANYA TECHNOLOGY CORP.

代表人:(中文/英文) 連日昌/LIEN, JIH(簽章)

住居所或營業所地址:(中文/英文)

桃園縣龜山鄉華亞科技園區復興三路六六九號/HWA-YA TECHNOLOGY PARK 669, FUHSING 3 RD., KUEISHAN, Tao-Yuan Hsien, Taiwan, R.O.C.

國 籍:(中文/英文)中華民國/TW

參、發明人:(共1人)

姓 名:(中文/英文)

林瑄智/LIN, SHIAN-JYH

住居所地址:(中文/英文)

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國 籍:(中文/英文):中華民國/TW

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|----|---|---|----|---|----|---|
| 本丰 | • | 重 | 叨 | # | 坦 | • |

| ■ 本案係符合專利法第二十條第一項 ■ 第一款但書或 ■ 第二款但書規定之期 |
|--|
| 間,其日期為: 年 月 日。 |
| ◎本案申請前已向下列國家(地區)申請專利 □ 主張國際優先權: |
| 【格式請依:受理國家(地區);申請日;申請案號數 順序註記】 |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |
| 5. |
| □ 主張國內優先權(專利法第二十五條之一): |
| 【格式請依:申請日;申請案號數 順序註記】 |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| □ 主張專利法第二十六條微生物: |
| □ 國內微生物 【格式請依:寄存機構;日期;號碼 順序註記】 |
| |
| ■ 國外微生物 【格式請依:寄存國名;機構;日期;號碼 順序註記】 |
| |
| 勃習該項技術者易於獲得,不須寄存。 |

伍、中文發明摘要:

一種形成閘極氧化層之方法,包含有提供一半導體基底,其上具有至少一矽主動區域;清洗該矽主動區域,獲得一乾淨矽主動區域表面;進行一預先回火(preliminary anneal)製程,將該半導體基底置於一氣密艙中,使該矽主動區域表面於低壓下接觸 N_2O 或 NO 氣體,以於該矽主動區域表面形成具有氮矽鍵結之氮矽氧層;以及於該氮矽氧層上繼續成長出一閘極氧化層。

陸、英文發明摘要:

The present invention relates to a method for growing a robust, high-quality gate oxide layer on a silicon surface. The resultant gate oxide layer made according to the present invention can pass the standard 50K times 14V high-voltage stress testing. The preferred embodiment of this invention includes a step of preliminary low-pressure N_2O annealing that is carried out in an air-tight chamber at a temperature of $400\sim1000^{\circ}C$, a pressure below 0.2 torr, and N_2O flow rate of below 8000 sccm. The preliminary low-pressure N_2O annealing of the silicon surface is performed prior to the growth of high-quality gate oxide layer. In another preferred embodiment, N_2O may be replaced with NO.

柒、指定代表圖:

- (一)本案指定代表圖為:第(一)圖。
- (二)本代表圖之元件代表符號簡單說明:
 - 12 提供一半導體基底 14 進行 N₂O 預先回火製程
 - 16 成長閘極氧化層

捌、本案若有化學式時,請揭示最能顯示發明特徵的化學式:

玖、發明說明:

【發明所屬之技術領域】

本發明係關於一種閘極氧化層的形成方法,尤指一種利用低壓 N_2O 預先回火(low-pressure N_2O preliminary anneal)製程,以製作出高可靠度 耐高電壓之閘極氧化層之方法。

【先前技術】

隨著半導體技術的進步,半導體元件,如 MOS 電晶體的尺寸越做越小,相對地,對於閘極氧化層的厚度與品質的要求也愈趨嚴格。如何製造出高品質、高可靠度、堅固、耐高電壓又超薄之閘極氧化層, 一直是半導體製造業者努力的課題。

習知製作閘極氧化層的方法係在矽基底上利用乾式或濕式氧化技術,在矽基底表面成長出閘極氧化層,隨後再以氫氣或氮氣進行回火。如美國專利第 6204205 號,「利用氫回火改善閘極氧化層電性(Using H₂ Anneal to Improve the Electrical Characteristics of Gate Oxide)」,揭露的方法包括在 750° C 至 900° C 下先在矽表面成長 10 至 15 埃的超薄閘極氧化層,接著在 800° C 至 1200° C、一大氣壓(atmospheric pressure)下,以氫氣對閘極氧化層進行回火處理,時間約為 20 至 40 秒。或者以氦氣在 800° C 至 1200° C、一大氣壓下,對閘極氧化層進行回火處理,時間約為 20 至 40 秒。

其它相關之先前技術中,又如美國專利第 6184110 號,「應用在雙閘極 CMOS 元件之氣摻雜超薄閘極氧化層之形成方法(Method of Forming Nitrogen Implanted Ultrathin Gate Oxide for Dual Gate CMOS Devices)」,揭露的方法包括在矽基底上先形成薄閘極氧化層,然後將晶圓送入所謂的電漿浸入離子佈植反應艙(plasma immersion ion

implantation process chamber)中,通入氮氟並施以溫和的脈衝(mild pulse),使氮植入閘極氧化層上表面,接著在 600℃至 1050℃下進行回火製程。

又如美國專利第 6498365 號,「具有漸次氮濃度之場效電晶體閘極氧化層(FET Gate Oxide Layer with Graded Nitrogen Concentration)」,揭露一種閘極氧化層,其具有氮濃度分佈在閘極氧化層中靠近閘極之上側部位較濃。其方法包括先於矽基底表面以熱氧化方式形成一約 60 埃厚的矽氧層、然後於該矽氧層上沈積一約 20 埃厚的多晶矽或非晶矽層,接著將晶圓移入反應艙,通入 N_2O 或 NO 氣體,在 900° C 高溫下、壓力約為 400 托耳(Torr)漸漸將多晶矽或非晶矽層全部氧化成氮矽氧層 (nitrogen oxide layer)。

上述習知技術皆是在形成閘極氧化層之後,再以氮氣或氫氣進行回 火製程,然而,對於某些需要在較嚴苛操作條件下,例如 14 伏特高電 壓,的 MOS 元件而言,上述作法所形成之閘極氧化層仍然無法通過測 試。

【發明內容】

據此,本發明之主要目的即在於提供一種閘極氧化層的製作方法,所提供之閘極氧化層具有高可靠度耐高電壓等優點。

根據本發明之較佳實施例,本發明提供一種形成閘極氧化層之方法,包含有提供一半導體基底,其上具有至少一矽主動區域;清洗該矽主動區域,獲得一乾淨矽主動區域表面;進行一預先回火(preliminary anneal)製程,將該半導體基底置於一氣密艙中,使該矽主動區域表面於低壓下接觸 N_2O 或 NO 氣體,以於該矽主動區域表面形成具有氮矽鍵結之氮矽氧層;以及於該氮矽氧層上繼續成長出一閘極氧化層。

為讓本發明之上述目的、特徵、和優點能更明顯易懂,下文特舉一較佳實施例,並配合所附圖式,作詳細說明如下。

【實施方式】

請參閱圖一,圖一為依據本發明一較佳實施例之流程圖。如圖一所示之步驟 12,本發明首先提供一半導體基底,例如矽基底,在經過清洗之後,準備進行步驟 14。半導體基底上具有複數個由絕緣層隔絕之矽主動區域,在完成清洗之後,矽主動區域表面上可能有厚度約數埃的原生氧化層(native oxide)存在。在步驟 14,半導體基底被置於氣密艙中進行預先回火製程,在低壓下,於氣密艙中通入 10 至 8000sccm 的 N_2O 氣體,回火時的壓力控制在較佳為低於 0.2 托耳(torr),回火溫度介於 400° C 至 1000° C之間,回火昇溫速度為 5° C/分鐘至 100° C/分鐘,回火時間在 60 分鐘以內。接著進行步驟 16,利用乾式或濕式方法,將預處理過的半導體基底表面成長出高品質耐高電壓之閘極氧化層。

請參閱圖二,圖二為依據本發明另一較佳實施例之流程圖。如圖二所示之步驟 22,本發明首先提供一半導體基底,例如矽基底,在經過清洗之後,準備進行步驟 24。半導體基底上具有複數個由絕緣層隔絕之矽主動區域,在完成清洗之後,矽主動區域表面上可能有厚度約數埃的原生氧化層存在。在步驟 24,半導體基底被置於氣密艙中進行預先回火製程,在低壓下,於氣密艙中通入 10 至 8000sccm 的 NO 氣體,回火時的壓力控制在較佳為低於 0.2 托耳(torr),回火溫度介於 400℃至 1000℃之間,回火時間在 60 分鐘以內。接著進行步驟 26,利用乾式或濕式方法,將預處理過的半導體基底表面成長出高品質耐高電壓之閘極氧化層。

請參閱圖三至圖五,圖三至圖五顯示本發明較佳實施例之剖面示意

圖。首先,如圖三所示,提供一半導體基底 100,其上具有至少一主動區域 101,主動區域 101 並由淺溝絕緣(STI)區域所隔絕。主動區域 101 表面先經過清洗,例如 DHF 或其它清洗劑,以獲得一乾淨的矽表面。在完成清洗後,主動區域 101 表面可能生成數埃厚的原生氧化層(圖未示)。

如圖四所示,接著將半導體基底 100 置於一氣密艙中,其可以為 RTP 反應艙或加熱爐管。然後在低壓下,於氣密艙中通入 10 至 8000 sccm 的 N_2O 氣體,回火時的壓力控制在較佳為低於 0.2 托耳(torr),回火溫度介於 400° C 至 1000° C 之間,回火時間在 60 分鐘以內。此步驟可在主動區域 101 表面形成具 N-Si 鍵結之氮矽氧(nitrogen oxide)層 102,其厚度小於 5 埃。而由於壓力控制在低壓下(<0.2 torr)進行,因此氮矽氧層 102 的 N-Si 鍵結數量不至於明顯影響到電子在通道區域內的遷移能力 (mobility)。

如圖五所示,接著利用乾式或濕式方法,將預處理過的主動區域 101 表面成長出高品質耐高電壓之閘極氧化層 103。

以上所述僅為本發明之較佳實施例,凡依本發明申請專利範圍所做 之均等變化與修飾,皆應屬本發明專利之涵蓋範圍。

【圖式簡單說明】

圖式之簡單說明

圖一為依據本發明一較佳實施例之流程圖。

圖二為依據本發明另一較佳實施例之流程圖。

圖三至圖五顯示本發明較佳實施例之剖面示意圖。

圖式之符號說明

| 12 | 提供一半導體基底 | 14 | 進行 N ₂ O 預先回火製程 |
|-----|--------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 16 | 成長閘極氧化層 | 22 | 提供一半導體基底 |
| 24 | 進行 NO 預先回火製程 | 26 | 成長閘極氧化層 |
| 100 | 半導體基底 | 101 | 矽主動區域 |
| 102 | 氮矽氧層 | 103 | 閘極氧化層 |

拾、申請專利範圍:

1. 一種形成閘極氧化層之方法,包含有:

提供一半導體基底,其上具有至少一矽主動區域;

清洗該矽主動區域,獲得一乾淨矽主動區域表面;

進行一預先回火(preliminary anneal)製程,將該半導體基底置於一氣密艙中,使該矽主動區域表面於低壓下接觸 N_2O 氣體,以於該矽主動區域表面形成具有氮矽鍵結之氮矽氧層;以及

於該氫矽氧層上繼續成長出一閘極氧化層。

- 2. 如申請專利範圍第1項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該低壓係 指小於0.2 托耳。
- 3. 如申請專利範圍第1項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回 火製程係在小於1000℃下進行。
- 4. 如申請專利範圍第 1 項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回火製程係在 N_2O 氣體流量介於 10 至 8000sccm 下進行。
- 5. 如申請專利範圍第1項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回 火製程之反應時間小於60分鐘。
- 6. 如申請專利範圍第1項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回 火製程之回火昇溫速度為5℃/分鐘至100℃/分鐘。
- 7. 一種形成閘極氧化層之方法,包含有:

提供一半導體基底,其上具有至少一矽主動區域;

清洗該矽主動區域,獲得一乾淨矽主動區域表面;

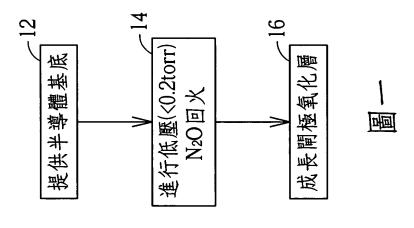
進行一預先回火(preliminary anneal)製程,將該半導體基底置於一氣

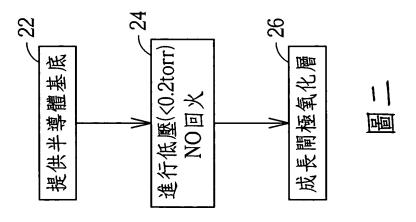
密艙中,使該矽主動區域表面於低壓下接觸 NO 氣體,以於該矽主動區域表面形成具有氮矽鍵結之氮矽氧層;以及

於該氮矽氧層上繼續成長出一閘極氧化層。

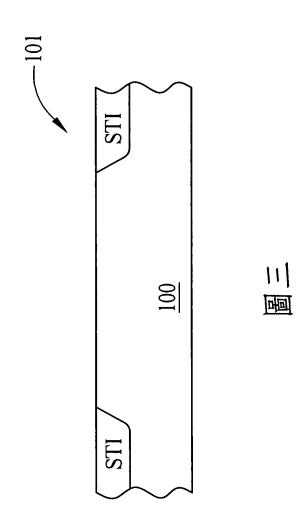
- 8. 如申請專利範圍第7項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該低壓係 指小於0.2 托耳。
- 9. 如申請專利範圍第7項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回 火製程係在400℃至1000℃下進行。
- 10. 如申請專利範圍第7項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回 火製程係在NO 氣體流量介於10至8000sccm下進行。
- 11. 如申請專利範圍第7項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中該預先回火製程之反應時間小於60分鐘。
- 12. 如申請專利範圍第7項所述形成閘極氧化層之方法,其中預先回火 製程之回火昇溫速度為5°C/分鐘至100°C/分鐘。

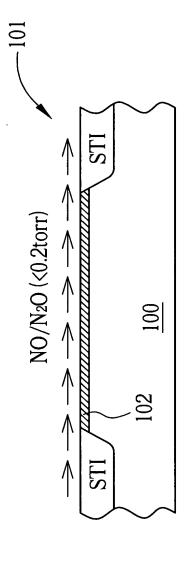
拾壹、圖式:





M





圖口

